

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. RES. 692

Supporting the goals and ideals of Tay-Sachs Awareness Month.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 29, 2009

Mr. ARCURI (for himself, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. LOWEY, and Mr. CARDOZA) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## RESOLUTION

Supporting the goals and ideals of Tay-Sachs Awareness  
Month.

Whereas Tay-Sachs disease is a rare, genetic disorder that causes destruction of nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord due to the poor functioning of an enzyme called beta-hexosaminidase A;

Whereas there is no proven treatment or cure for Tay-Sachs disease, which is always fatal in children;

Whereas the disorder was named after Warren Tay, an ophthalmologist from the United Kingdom, and Bernard Sachs, a neurologist from the United States, both of whom contributed to the discovery of the disease in 1881 and 1887, respectively;

Whereas Tay-Sachs disease often affects families with no prior history of the disease;

Whereas approximately 1 in 27 Ashkenazi Jews, 1 in 30 Louisianan Cajuns, 1 in 30 French Canadians, 1 in 50 Irish Americans, and 1 in every 250 people are carriers of Tay-Sachs disease;

Whereas approximately 1,200,000 Americans are carriers of Tay-Sachs disease;

Whereas these unaffected carriers of the disease possess the recessive gene that can trigger the disease in future generations;

Whereas if both parents of a child are carriers of Tay-Sachs disease, there is a 1 in 4 chance that the child will develop Tay-Sachs disease;

Whereas a simple and inexpensive blood test can determine if an individual is a carrier of Tay-Sachs disease, and all people in the United States, especially those citizens who are members of high-risk populations, should be screened; and

Whereas heightened awareness and increased research are the best ways to eradicate this horrific disease: Now, therefore, be it

- 1       *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives supports
- 2 the goals and ideals of Tay-Sachs Awareness Month and
- 3 encourages and supports education and research efforts
- 4 with respect to Tay-Sachs disease.

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